

REMARKS

In respect to the December 13, 2004 Office Action, applicant responds as follows:

In respect to the examiner's rejection of claims 47, 51, and 52 under 35 USC 112, applicant has made the changes to these claims to delete the term "preferably" in such claims.

In respect to the objection to claim 38 for reciting "typically", applicant has omitted this term from claim 38.

In respect to claims 42 and 52, applicant has rewritten these claims into their indicated allowable condition.

In respect to the rejection of the claims based on the newly utilized Ostberg U.S. Patent 2,999,723, this reference teaches that the end portion 6 of the flange 5 is extended backwardly so that the track during travel is continuously self-cleaned (as indicated by the arrows in fig 1; see col 2 lns 1-5). To clarify the distinctiveness of the claimed invention over Ostberg, applicant has amended the pertinent independent claims to recite that the wings form "a pocket to provide an impediment to flow by the end of the bar." This has the attribute of an impediment of flow by the end while thus to increase the longevity and the greater application of travel force in any turn (appln pg 12 ln 24-pg 13 ln 2). Each of the wings creates a pocket 50 behind the bar

40 that forces any residual blow by to pass backwards to increase pressure contact area thus resisting the flow of material by the bar (pg 13 lns 16-20). Due to this, the effective inner driving turn surface 49 is greater than the length of each individual wing (col 14 lns 7-11). It is believed that this amendment distinguishes over the newly utilized Ostberg reference which does the opposite.

In respect to the rejection of the claims based on the newly cited Skanes U.S. Patent 3,355,224, again this reference teaches that the grouser is angled backwardly to provide a self cleaning in its action so that the soil is wiped diagonally outwardly and rearwardly (the direction of the arrows in fig 3; see col 2 lns 59-62).

In respect to claim 26, on the previously cited newly applied Rasmussen U.S. Patent 4,021,082, applicant respectfully requests the examiner's reconsideration of this rejection.

Rasmussen teaches of a replaceable grouser bar (col 2 lns 1, 43, 67, etc.). This bar is the equivalent of applicant's bar 40 extending outwardly off of the top surface 22 of the pad 20. In the presently pending application, this bar forms the primary drive engaging drive connection for the shoes (pg 11 lns 3, 11). The claim 26 relates to the wear bar 36 which extends upwardly from the leading edge 26 of the top surface 22 to reduce the physical wear thereon (pg 10 lns

14-22). To clarify this difference, applicant has amended claim 26 to recite that the wear bar is distinct from the grouser bar. It is believed that this distinguishes the claim 26 over the cited Rasmussen reference.

In that the above is believed to place the application into condition for allowance, favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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